



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

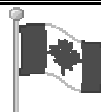
PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

October 2003 Volume 64 Number 8

club address: www.halifax-arc.org



Happy Thanksgiving



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign

Phone

E-Mail

President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca
First V.P. - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	ve1dhd@rac.ca
Treasurer - Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF	835-6651	ve1jhf@rac.ca
Member at Large -		
Club Station Mgr. - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	ve1cdd@rac.ca
Past President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	832-3660	ve1wph@rac.ca
IPARN and Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager -		
Bob Burns, VE1VCK	865-9414	ve1vck@rac.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@is.dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Distribution- Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	ve1gtc@rac.ca
Membership - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	ve1gtc@rac.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course Scott Wood, VE1QD,	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
Callbook 2004 Editor - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	ve1dhd@rac.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Flea market 2004 Chair'man - NEEDED		
Field Day coordinator - NEEDED		
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM,	860-1580	ve1wjm@rac.ca
NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia - Bev Reynolds, VE1TL		

The **General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, October 15, 2003 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM), at the former Bloomfield School building (corner of Almon and Agricola streets). The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. Our speaker will be Ron Weagle, VE1RHW, on Fast Scan TV

Guests are welcome.

Please plan to attend November's Annual meeting and election of our executive for 2004.

RAC

President - Bill Gillis, VE1WG
First Vice President - Ian MacFarquhar, VE9IM
Secretary - Dawn MacKay, VE1MAK
Maritimes Section Manager - Hugh Clark, VE9HC,
Atlantic Director - David Nimmo, VE1NN

RAC's web site is www.rac.ca

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes.

This will be the rotation.

If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.

Oct. 19	Larry	VA1LW
Oct. 26	Dave	VE1EDA
Nov. 2	Herb	VE1HX
Nov. 9	Darryl	VE1DOH
Nov. 16	Charles	VE1MCR
Nov. 23	Chris	VA1CDB



The HARC Reflector is also available on the web (a little after the paper copy) courtesy of Rob Ewert, VE1KS, by connecting to www.halifax-arc.org

Puzzler - Do You Know?

What is the Aloha protocol?

Answer on page 8



GENERAL INFORMATION

TAKE-15 NET:

Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz +

AMSAT Net: Sunday evenings following the Take 15 Net.

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz +
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

PACKET:

VE1NSD - 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS accessible through the LAN

Coming Events

Tune in to the "Amsat Net" Sunday evenings after the Take-15 Net with Wayne, VE1WPH.

Coming soon – Practice Net – Amateur Radio communications for emergency response

If you know of anyone who wants to take the Amateur radio basic course they should contact course coordinator, Scott Wood, VE1QD,
Phone 823-2761
Email ve1qd@rac.ca

2003 Space Symposium and Annual Meeting **Oct. 17-19, 2003** in Toronto, Ontario

http://www.barc.ca/amsat_ca/

October 18 – Greenwood Fleamarket

HARC Christmas party December 10

Can You Lend A Hand!

We need Hams at the Club Station to lend a hand in demonstrating our hobby.



If you can spare a little time now and then, helping out, please give me a call or e-mail."

John Goodwin 865-5731
ve1cdd@rac.ca

NSARA executive for 2003-2004
President – Tom Cohoon, VE1TA
1st VP – Jim Hannon, VE1AFH
Treasurer - Shirley Cohoon, VE1JFG
Secretary – Bruce Harvey, VE1II

*Never, under any circumstances,
take a sleeping pill and
a laxative on the same night.*

The HARC Christmas Party:

Place: Mandarin Kitchen

189 Herring Cove Road

Date: Wednesday,

December 10, 2003

Time: 6:30 PM for 7:00

for Chinese buffet dinner

Cost: Buffet will be \$11.50 per person including tax. The buffet will consist of 11 items (all the most common chinese dishes) plus tea or coffee. Pop and other beverages are extra.

A limited Canadian menu is available for those who do not enjoy Chinese food.

Anyone ordering Canadian food, will be billed separately for whatever they order.

There will be a basic cash bar service available.



There is plenty of parking in the parking lot next door to the restaurant and limited parking in front & behind the restaurant itself.

Please let Betty know by Wednesday, December 3, if you plan to attend so numbers can be finalized with the restaurant. Call Betty at 477-7081 or e-mail her at

betty.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

Anyone wishing to donate a door prize should also be in touch with Betty.



REMINDER

Have you changed your address?
Got a new call sign?

We need to know your correct address to get the newsletter to you. Please inform Tom Caithness, VE1GTC, of any address changes.

CALL BOOK 2004

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club will consider producing a call book for May, 2004. To do this we will need volunteers **now**.

Howard, VE1DHD, has agreed to be the 2004 Callbook Editor/Project Manager. Howard urges members to become involved in the project by contacting him directly

E-mail VE1DHD@RAC.ca

Phone 823-2024

A committee of people are needed. **Some** of the positions/functions are as follows.

Editor/Project Manager –

Howard Dickson, VE1DHD.

Advertising: - Two or three people.

Information fillers: -

Three or more people.

Maps: - One person.

Proof reading: - several people.

Cover design and collating book layout: -

Two or more people.

Graphics design for unfinished ads: -

One or two people.

Long term storage of unsold books: -

One person.

Sales: - One or two people.

Distribution: - One or two people.

Public relations: -

Three or more people.

Information gathering: -

3 or more people.

Corrections contacts: -

One or two people.

Please consider one or more of the above and let Howard, VE1DHD, know of your interest (823-2024 ve1dhd@rac.ca). We must have a full committee by the October meeting.

The more people who are doing the jobs above, the less time any one person has to spend on it.

The **Greenwood 15th Annual Amateur Radio and Electronics Flea Market** will be held as in previous years, in the Greenwood Community Centre, on **Saturday the 18th of October**, from **10:00 AM until 2:00 PM**. With doors open to sellers at 8 AM. The format and content of the function will basically be as in previous years. Come and enjoy our famous Bratwurst sausage in a bun!

Burt Amero VE1AMA will be taking bookings for tables.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me or one the members listed below.

We look forward to meeting you all at Greenwood.

Dave McHattie VE1RCN Flea Market Chairman 2003 (902) 765-9200

Guy Campbell VE1NC President GARC (902) 825-6151

Burt Amero VE1AMA "Table Guy" (902) 847-7073



Oct. 3 2003 Halifax Hams
cope with the Hurricane

Amateurs were closed up in the EOC 12 hours before the hurricane hit. We had several "field stations", myself included, ready to go on a moments notice....I had 3 VHF, 1UHF, 1HF rig c/w portable AE, power supplies, batteries, etc. all in my car.....but none of us were called out.

I did go and assist at our local Telus site which was co-located with a city fire/police/amateur repeater tower which fell. Amateurs moved fire & police antennas and gear from the fallen tower over to the Telus tower and got that gear going again....didn't bother about the 2M repeater as the city has 3 other repeaters all of which were up and on emergency power.

It was interesting to note that the cell-sites have about 24 hrs backup power available, which is usually enough, but not in this case!.....The city gave Telus a generator to feed their gear in exchange for city getting to add their antennas to the Telus tower!

Most local amateur AE systems survived the storm, my own 50 ft tower and six antennas on it included, but my friend VE1TK, located in a lovely but exposed seashore location, was not so fortunate losing 4 of his 5 towers !

The biggest problem in the city is the very large number of very mature maples and other big trees that were uprooted in middle of Halifax proper and lay on power lines, houses, etc.

Full Story go to
[www.rac.ca/news/canada.htm#Halifax Hams](http://www.rac.ca/news/canada.htm#Halifax%20Hams)

RAC Atlantic Director
Dave Nimmo, VE1NN

On the move?

Send your change of address to the
Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau
P.O. Box 8895
Halifax, N.S. B3K 5M5

Letter from the Editor About Hurricane Juan

Well!! That was a week we don't want to repeat for another 50 or 100 years!! And it was a perfect example of why we should each have on hand a battery-powered radio, flashlights, fresh batteries (the right size), a propane camp stove or similar, bottled water ... and a whole list of other possible stuff including maybe a generator to keep the freezer from melting down.

While Amateur Radio wasn't called upon to fill extensive communication gaps there were hams standing by in shifts in the EOC Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday and many more of us kept an ear tuned just in case. The EOC's generator (which had had a debug and 24 hour test when we worked Field Day 2003 there) carried its load 'til the commercial AC was restored.

It's ironic that Bill, VE1WWG, who spent so many hours in the EOC during the aftermath still didn't have AC restored at his home as of Sunday, Oct.5

If you're wondering why the Dartmouth repeater is off the air, it's because the tower at the Mount Edward Rd. site was laid low during the storm. Very low ... Dave, VE1AJP, who went to the site to investigate declared himself to be taller and certainly more vertical than the Mt. Edward Rd. site tower after Juan was finished with it. The Fire Department relies on (that should read relied on) that tower for paging.

A call for coax went out. Darkness was approaching. By the time Bill, VE1MR & I arrived arrangements had been made to put antennas on the nearby Telus tower and Pat, VE1PHK, was up the Telus tower rendering assistance to the city's climber. Bill, VE1MR, provided 125ft. of hardline which he connectorized on the spot using AC from the EMO com trailer which was on the spot. As part of the tower sharing agreement (apparently) the generator from the Municipal site was soon dragged over to the Telus building (which had been "powerless") and put into service.

The fix would have performed better if the receiver was connected to the higher antenna using the hardline cable. Regrettably the system as installed ended up with a big mouth and small ears. Hopefully this will be rectified once things settle down a bit.

While most of us got away with minimal damage not everyone was so lucky. Dave, VE1EI, had his mobile home destroyed. Fred, VE1BSY had his tower laid down on the corner of his roof (Tower was removed Saturday by a work group of hams)

But truly, considering the number of large trees which came down within reach of houses, there was incredibly little damage done to people or property. Time and again trees missed nearby structures or uprooted and only slowly came to rest on roofs without smashing through.

So that was an early fall hurricane fortunately followed by quite mild sunny weather. For extended *winter* power failures add to the list of things to have on hand a source of heat (wood stove, gas fireplace, kerosene heater or similar) and lots of warm clothes.

Hope you & yours came through OK.

Lynn, VE1ENT

Tech Support - Yet another Dell customer called to complain that his keyboard no longer worked. He had cleaned it by filling up his tub with soap and water and soaking the keyboard for a day, then removing all the keys and washing them individually.

BASIC RADIO COURSE, 2003-04

The Basic Radio Course sponsored by HARC, and taught by senior club members, began on 25 September. The course will meet each Thursday from 7:00 – 9:30 PM until the beginning of April, except for a one-month Christmas and New Year's break. The course provides 40 hours of instruction, including both classroom and hands-on sessions. It will prepare hobby newcomers for the entry level-licensing exam. We are aiming for a 100% pass rate by those completing the course!

The course contents follow the *RAC Study Guide for the Basic Exam*. Since the first meeting will be an introduction to ham radio, I urge each of you to encourage anyone you think may be interested in becoming a ham to join us that day. This first class will give those still uncertain about seeking a ham radio license an opportunity to hear about the many exciting dimensions of our hobby and obtain detailed information about the course.

The initial meeting will be held in the HARC club-room at Bloomfield School, 2786 Agricola Street (the corner of Agricola and Almon streets). However, if the class size is large enough we may need to find another location for subsequent sessions.

Although Morse code is not a requirement for the entry-level license, passing a test at 5 words per minute provides significantly greater operating privileges. Instruction in *Morse code as a language for communications* will be provided to those wishing to qualify for an enhanced entry-level qualification. The code training sessions will be arranged at a time and place that is mutually agreeable to members of the class expressing an interest. Already licensed HARC members who wish to qualify for expanded HF privileges by upgrading their present qualifications will also be welcome to join the code class.

The Basic Radio Course fee is \$50 and includes Associate Membership in the club. However, students will also need to purchase, at a cost of \$45, the *RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada) Study Guide for the Basic Exam*. Some books are already available through HARC. There is no charge for those wishing to take part in the Morse code proficiency training.

Any prospective students for the 2003-04 Basic Radio Course should contact me in order to reserve a place in the class and to obtain further information.

K. Scott Wood, VE1QD
E-mail: VE1QD@rac.ca
Telephone: 823-2761



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 37,
September 19, 2003

The 2003 DX Magazine "most wanted" survey <http://www.dxpub.com/dx_survey2003.html> is under way. The deadline to respond is Oct. 15. The survey helps DXpeditioners decide where to go next. DX Magazine Publisher Carl Smith, N4AA, says not all DXCC entities are listed--just the most likely ones. Respondents are asked to select entities they do not have confirmed for DXCC. There's an opportunity to comment, where respondents may list needed countries not appearing on the list. The results will be released in early 2004.

--The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com>

True story from a Novell NetWire SysOp:

CALLER: "Hello, is this Tech Support?"

TECH: "Yes, it is. How may I help you?"

CALLER: "The cup holder on my PC is broken and I am within my warranty period. How do I go about getting that fixed?"

TECH: "I'm sorry, but did you say a cup holder?"

CALLER: "Yes, it's attached to the front of my computer."

TECH: "Please excuse me. If I seem a bit stumped, it's because I am. Did you receive this as part of a promotional at a trade show? How did you get this cup holder? Does it have any trademark on it?"

CALLER: "It came with my computer. I don't know anything about a promotional. It just has '4X' on it."

At this point, the Tech Rep had to mute the caller because he couldn't stand it. He was laughing too hard. The caller had been using the load drawer of the CD-ROM drive as a cup holder and snapped it off the drive

HARC t-shirts & caps (royal blue embroidered with the HARC crest) can be purchased from our stock for
Ball Caps @ \$10 each
T-shirts @ \$15 each
Contact: Lynn Bowser,
VE1ENT



HARC Tube Bank Anyone looking for a particular tube or tubes should contact the Tube Bank Managers Amy Cohoon, Ashley Cohoon or Kim Carter by e-mail at

tubes@37.com

or snail mail:

99 Hyson Point Rd.

Mahone Bay, N.S. B0J 2E0

There is a nominal charge if we can supply the tube wanted.

Shipping/mailing is extra..



Do you have a radio-oriented story, question, answer, article, notice, picture or letter to the editor that you would like to share by having it published in the HARC Reflector?

Get them to the HARC Reflector editor, Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT (e-mail

ve1ent@rac.ca)

Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Monthly Meeting of September 17th, 2003.

The meeting was called to order at 1940 Wednesday, September 17th, 2003 by President Dick (VE1AI).

Executive in attendance:

Past-President Bill Elliott (VE1MR); President Dick Grantham (VE1AI); Second Vice-President Lynn Bowser (VE1ENT); Treasurer Jeremy Fowler (VE1JHF); and Secretary Howard Dickson (VE1DHD).

Guests: Lena – XYL of Bob VE1PQ. And Sandra – XYL of Dick VE1AI

Silent Keys: The passing of VE1EXE – Konrad Byers of Parrsboro was brought to the attention of the meeting by George (VE1GAB).

Minutes of June Meeting – Approval of the minutes as published in the September 2003 Reflector was moved by Bill (VE1MR) and seconded by Dave (VE1EDA). Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report –

Jeremy (VE1JHF) reported a bank balance of \$3,344.57 with several outstanding cheques. Jeremy urged members to submit to him as soon as possible all receipts and claims for reimbursement; the Club's fiscal year closes at the end of September.

Approval of the Treasurer's report was moved by George (VE1GAB), seconded by Scott (VE1QD). There was no discussion. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Club Station Report –

John (VE1CDD) was absent, but President Dick (VE1AI) reported that he had re-ordered the pre-amp for the satellite station and indicated that it should be arriving this week.

Membership – Tom (VE1GTC) reported a total Membership of 124 – 2 Life Members; 28 Associate Members and 94 Full Members; two members have also paid their 2004 dues.

Search & Rescue – Dave (VE1AJP) reported a quiet month with S&R.

EMO – Dave (VE1AJP) reported on the surprising result of the "Canadian Idol" voting that took place on Tues-

day September 16th, where Metro telephone subscribers were without dial tones for periods of a minute or less up to several minutes because of the huge demand what was placed on the system by people voting for their Idol choice over the phone. The potential for such a situation to effect 911 emergency calling was discussed briefly and Dave indicated that a report had been passed to Barry Manuel at the EMO.

EMO – Dave reminded members that he is still looking for additional volunteers to assist with communications during the APCO (Association of Professional Communication Officers) Conference to be held in Halifax on October 6, 7 and 8th. He has six and could use six or seven more volunteers. The following members volunteered: Pierre – VE1PTR; Chris – VA1CDB; Scott – VE1QD; Bill – VE1MR; George – VE1GAB; Lynn – VE1ENT; Herb – VE1HTD. Dave to contact volunteers by email to assign duties and to arrange for a planning meeting.

ACTION >> Dave (VE1AJP)

Dave also reported that the Club, together with the Ground Search and Rescue group were attempting to put together a poster for the Conference. The poster would highlight the contributions of radio amateurs to emergency communications. A notice of motion requesting up to \$300 for the development of this display was published in the September Reflector. See under New Business.

Public Relations – Wayne (VE1WPH) was absent, but he did inform the Executive that the poster display frame was finished and he had intended to bring it to this meeting.

Field Day – President Dick reported on another successful HARC Field Day event in June. The Halifax Club participated this year under the new F-class and operated from the Halifax EMO facility in Dartmouth. Some problems were en-

countered with coax cables being mislabeled but generally it was a well-organised and fun event for all, in spite of the dreadful propagation conditions.

APRS Group – Dave (VE1EDA) reported that the APRS group would meet next on Tuesday September 23rd in the Club Station at 7:30PM. Because of a recent conflict encountered over booking of the Club Station for events, Dave suggested that it might be worthwhile to look at having Rob (VE1KS) put a Station booking calendar on the Club website. Dave agreed to contact Rob to discuss.

ACTION > Dave (VE1EDA)

HAM Course – Scott (VE1QD) reported that planning for the 2003/2004 HAM Course was well underway. He was disappointed at the relatively small enrolment to this point (eight people) and encouraged members to talk the course up. The first meeting will take place in the Club Station from 7:00 to 9:30PM on Thursday September 25th. Scott was reminded to arrange to have Rob put an announcement for the Course on the HARC website.

ACTION > Scott (VE1QD)

Maritime Callbook 2004 – President Dick and Howard (VE1DHD) reminded the membership of the critical importance of the Callbook revenues to the ongoing Club activities. Dick indicated that Howard had agreed to be the 2004 Callbook Editor/Project Manager. Howard urged members to become involved in the project by contacting him directly (VE1DHD@RAC.ca). Several members volunteered at the meeting: Bob (VE1PQ); Scott (VE1QD); Dick (VE1AI); George (VE1GAB); and Barry (VE1TRI). Howard will be contacting volunteers as the Callbook production schedule is developed over the next week or so.

ACTION > Howard (VE1DHD)

MS Bike Tour – Bill (VE1MR) reported for Rick (VE1RGG) on another very successful Bike Tour with over \$350,000 being raised for MS research by over 500 cyclists, spon-

sors and volunteers.

Radio Amateurs again played an important role as communicators. This year APRS was tried for the first time to keep track of first-aid vehicles. Although some problems were encountered, this trial proved to be an excellent learning experience for the APRS group. The use of the new EMO mobile repeater was also a very positive addition to the event this year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Letters to Lapsed Members – Dick reported that the original letter that was drafted last spring will be re-worked and updated. It will be sent to some 60 lapsed members and it was proposed that each then receive a follow-up phone call. President Dick, Bill (VE1MR) and Howard (VE1DHD) to update letter and send by end of September.

ACTION > Dick (VE1AI); Bill (VE1MR) & Howard (VE1DHD)

Amateur Radio & Boating – President Dick reported that the theme for the 2004 Boat Show had been decided upon and it apparently was not "communication" and therefore the Club will not be involved with the Boat Show this year. However it was suggested that the Club follow up on the previous suggestion to volunteer our services as winter speakers at the various sailing clubs to promote the benefits of amateur radio to the yachting world. It was suggested that since Linda (VE1WWW) and Mike (VE1MPW) are both boaters Howard (VE1DHD) should contact them to get some input on this initiative.

ACTION > Howard (VE1DHD)

NEW BUSINESS:

Notice of Motion – A notice of motion was published in the September Reflector requesting up to \$300 to be expended by the Club in preparing of Club promotions posters. President

HARC yearly membership dues are
Full = \$25
Associate = \$15
Family (2 members) = \$35 + \$10 for each additional family member at same address (only 1 newsletter)

Dick pointed out that this display would be used at the upcoming APCO conference but would also have additional future use in promoting Club activities. A motion was moved by Chris (VA1CDB) and seconded by Barry (VE1TRI). There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Amateur of the Year 2004 – Howard (VE1DHD) reported that he and President Dick had been developing a letter of nomination for this award in the name of Past President – Bill Elliott (VE1MR). He reported that the Club Executive had discussed this initiative and all approved that this be a club-sponsored nomination. A motion was made by Howard (VE1DHD), seconded by Scott (VE1QD) to have the Halifax Club officially support Bill's letter of nomination for the 2004 RAC Amateur of the Year. A brief positive discussion ensued and the motion carried unanimously.

Nominating Committee Chair – President Dick indicated that it was urgent that a chair be found for the 2004 Nominating Committee. Bob Swinwood (VE1PQ) volunteered. On a motion by Bill (VE1MR), seconded by Lorne (VE1KLF), Bob was acclaimed to the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Auditor – President Dick indicated that it was also urgent that an auditor be found to review and report on the club books in time for the AGM in November. Jeremy agreed to contact Tom (VE1TA) who served as auditor in 2002 to see if he would provide his services to the club this year. ACTION > Jeremy (VE1JHF)

Christmas Party – Betty (VE1BSW) and Tom (VE1GTC) agreed to organise the Christmas party again this year. A tentative date of Wednesday December 10th was agreed upon. Betty will scope out possible locations and obtain prices.

Club Participation in JOTA and GOTA – Pat (VE1PHK) agreed to work with John (VE1CDD) to make the Club station available to Cubs, Scouts and Guides again this year.


Field Day 2004 – Dick indicated that

a chair was required for the Field Day 2004 Committee. It was agreed that the Club would operate under normal field conditions in 2004 and a chair will be actively sought.

Suggested Speakers and Topics for 2004 were discussed:

Fiber Optics in High-speed communication
DXing – Jim Fisher (VE1JF)
Alternate Power Sources – wind; solar and fish oil
Tour of the Halifax Coastguard Radio Station
Radio Specifications

RAC Report – Dave (VE1NN) provided a brief overview of current activities at RAC that might be of interest to the membership. The upcoming CARAB meeting between members of RAC and Industry Canada will be important in broaching the issue of dropping Morse requirements in Canada. Dave also indicated that his personal IRLP node has been moved to a better location in BeaverBank. The frequency is 147.585. Test out your ability to "hit" this repeater by keying up and entering 66.

 Door Prize – the prize was an AC line tester and was won by Scott (VE1QD).

50:50 Draw – the purse was won by Lena (xyl of Bob – VE1PQ).



On a motion by Dave (VE1EDA) the meeting adjourned at 2110.

Entertainment:

Wayne (VE1WPH) was the designated speaker for the evening but was unavailable due to personal commitments.

Respectfully submitted by
VE1DHD – Howard Dickson



Tech Support:

A Dell customer called to say he couldn't get his computer to fax anything. After 40 minutes of trouble-shooting, the technician discovered the man was trying to fax a piece of paper by holding it in front of the monitor screen and hitting the "Send" key.

Mail From: Al Penney

Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2003

Results of Sep VHF/UHF Contest

Just thought I would pass on the results of our trip to DM77 last week. Dick K2LCT, Brian KC9EMW and I were delayed getting out of town on Friday. As a result we arrived at our site east of Colorado City much later than planned. Putting up a tent in the dark is never fun, especially in Dick's case - he last used it over 20 years ago! Fortunately, the moths hadn't eaten it, and we were even able to put up the screen tent and have a beer before retiring for the evening.

At 0030 the wind suddenly blew up. The gusts were so strong I spent the next hour holding my tent frame off my face. The next morning I fully expected to find the screen tent in tatters and our cooking supplies scattered but fortunately everything was intact.

After a quick breakfast we started setting up. We put a lot of effort into making everything easier to assemble after our last trip in June - same size nuts and bolts, pre-assemble as much as possible etc. Although there were only 4 of us (a friend of Brian's dropped by to help out for a few hours) we had the antennas up shortly after noon. The only pause was to dispose of a large tarantula - Dick carefully scooped it onto a shovel and carried it about half a mile away (no sense in ticking it off - it could have friends!).

Antennas were as follows:

6m - 6 element Cushcraft beam at 21 feet with a 6m Ringo Ranger mounted above it;

2m - 17 elements on 27 foot boom at 25 feet with a mast-mounted Mirage preamp and a 6 pole array for vertical polarization;

222 MHz - 11 element Cushcraft beam at 23 feet;

432 MHz - 40 element circularly polarized beam at 27 feet with mast-mounted Mirage preamp;

1296 MHz - 40 element yagi on

12 foot boom at 30 feet.

We used a Kenwood TS-711 with a brick on 2 meters, and 2 FT-737R on the other bands, with bricks for 6m and 432 MHz.

The weather grew colder in the late afternoon and by suppertime it was raining. When an electrical storm started at about 1830 we disconnected the coax and took shelter in the vehicles. The strikes were close - on several there was less than a second's difference between flash and bang. Needless to say, we weren't about to operate in that!

The rain turned into snow and when an inch had accumulated (the electrical storm was still going on) we decided to go into town to get a coffee and warm up. As we drove in the snow intensified. Pretty soon we had a mini-blizzard! We couldn't find a place for a coffee, but it became apparent that it would be a pretty miserable night to spend in a tent. I had brought my arctic sleeping bag along (and I'm an optimist!) but Dick and Brian had summer sleeping bags. Accordingly, we decided that it would be best to spend the night in a motel. We found a suitable place, dropped Dick off, and Brian and I headed back to the site to get our overnight bags. We had to knock 4 inches of wet snow off all the tents to keep them from buckling, and by the way, the electrical storm was still going on!

We got back to the site just before 0800 the next day and missed the meteor scatter a few people reported. Tom K0GIE and his son CJ joined us (Tom had to work on Saturday), and we continued operating. We started teardown at about 1600, and got out of there at about 1830. KIOSK/Rover was in the area and dropped by to say hello just as a farmer was posting a no trespassing sign! Fortunately, Dick had asked permission to use the location from a friend of the farmer's, and after explaining what we were up to he

seemed happy.

Our results were as follows:

band	QSOs	mult
50	21	5
144	51	12
222	4	2
432	14	6
1296	3	2

for a total of 93 QSOs and 27 multipliers and a score of 3159 points. We may submit our entry as Limited Multi-operator, so the score will be a little less than this.

This was the third time that we have lost valuable operating time due to lightning (the June CQ WW VHF contest and Field Day as well). I guess that that's the risk you take in Colorado. I was also a little surprised at the relative lack of activity. We'll have to publicize the contest weekends more!

We're already planning for the January contest. We may try roving with a trailer carrying two tilt-up towers and a generator. Should be fun!

73 Al VO1NO / W0

1912: Latitude 41 degrees 46 minutes north; 50 degrees 41 minutes west



First Operator John George Phillips repeatedly sent **CQD** followed by **MGY**, Titanic's call sign, as Titanic filled with water. As sea water soaked the carpet under their feet Second Operator Harold Bride suggested that Phillips try the new sign, **SOS**. He did so. It was the first SOS ever sent

48 miles away Harold Cottman, *Carpathia's* wireless operator, copied the distress message.

10 miles away *California* was stopped, waiting for daylight to pick her way through the ice field. Her wireless operator had turned off his set for the night before Titanic's distress call had been sent

In July, 1918 *Carpathia* herself was torpedoed and sunk by U-55

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 33,
August 22, 2003

NTIA EXPRESSES "BROAD CONCERNS" IN BPL COMMENTS

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) while urging the FCC to "move forward expeditiously" with its inquiry into BPL, the NTIA expressed "broad concerns" about interference to government users. The NTIA also has launched an extensive modeling, analysis and measurement program for BPL. A Commerce Department branch, NTIA administers spectrum allocated to federal government users.

"Notwithstanding BPL's potential benefits, the Commission must ensure that other communications services, especially government operations, are adequately protected from unacceptable interference," the NTIA said in late-filed comments in the BPL Notice of Inquiry. "In tailoring its rules to promote BPL deployment, the Commission must be certain to provide all communications stakeholders with adequate protections against BPL emissions that may cause unacceptable radio frequency interference."

In early July, Frederick R. Wentland, NTIA's associate administrator in the Office of Spectrum Management, told the FCC that the NTIA did not favor Current Technologies LLC's <http://www.currenttechnologies.com/request> for a permanent waiver of the field strength limit specified for Class B emissions under FCC Part 15 rules. A Maryland BPL developer, Current Technologies already is field testing and marketing the technology.

Wentland worried that the pole-mounted interfaces and outdoor power lines used for BPL could interfere with public safety communication in the 30 to 50 MHz range. He

told FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Edmond J. Thomas that the "unobstructed and ubiquitous nature of this BPL application, and perhaps other aspects of BPL, differs considerably from the situations presently found in typical unintentional radiators" operating under Part 15.

Wentland--named recently to succeed Victory as NTIA administrator on an interim basis--also invited the FCC to coordinate its own BPL measurement activities with those of the NTIA.

The NTIA's comments are available on the NTIA Web site
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/fccfilings/2003/bplcomments_08132003.htm

*No matter how much Jell-O you put
in a swimming pool
you still can't walk on water.*

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 30
August 1, 2003

AMATEUR COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO POTENTIAL BPL THREAT

In a recent solicitation focusing on the BPL issue, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said no prior threat has posed a challenge more serious. "The threat is as close as the power lines right in your neighborhood," Sumner said in issuing a call to action to all amateurs. "Only by joining forces financially will we be able to educate government officials quickly and effectively on the impact of this new threat to Amateur Radio spectrum."

BPL technology already has been deployed in some European countries, and amateurs there have experienced interference from the systems. Responding in part to concerns expressed by its amateur community, **Japan last year decided not to adopt the technology because of its interference potential.**

Check into the
Maritime Noon Net, week days at
12 noon on the Gore repeater,
146.640 – MHz

Dave (VE1NN) says that his personal IRLP node has been moved to a better location in Beaver Bank. The frequency is 147.585. Test out your ability to "hit" this repeater by keying up and entering 66.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 32

The campaign against BPL

Funded by the special campaign fund, the ARRL Laboratory staff continues to prepare technical reports for official filings. Information and data gathered to date include calculations of the interference levels that radio amateurs can expect from BPL. These calculations were included in the 120-page filing ARRL submitted to the FCC in July. Since then, actual field measurements have been taken at four BPL trial sites in Pennsylvania, Maryland and New York. The ARRL also documented the interference in a dramatic video available via the ARRL Web site (see "BPL is 'Spectrum Pollution,' ARRL President Says" <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/08/08/2/>>). Additional video documentation will accompany future filings to the FCC.

Spectrum Defense Fund contributions have also borne the cost of ensuring that test equipment meets National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) standards. Voluntary contributions help cover expenses.

To find out more or to support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>.

To view documents already submitted in the BPL proceeding, click on "Search for Filed Comments" under "ECFS Main Links" and type "03-104" in the "Proceeding" field.

After February's space shuttle Columbia explosion, emergency workers in East Texas trying to locate the debris quickly learned that the easiest way to communicate wasn't by e-mail or cell phone it was ham radio. Rescuers in New York had made the same discovery after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Answer to puzzler on page 1



The Aloha protocol is a digital communications protocol used by amateurs in the early days of packet type communications.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, # 32
An Alaska amateur has launched a beacon on 136 kHz and has already confirmed a reception report from British Columbia and received an unconfirmed report--or "trace"--from the UK. Laurence Howell, KL1X (ex-GM4DMA), reports his WD2XDW CW beacon from Anchorage (BP41xd) is now on the air 24/7 at 137.77350 kHz--a slight change from his initial frequency to avoid LORAN C spurs.

The WD2XDW beacon is being used for propagation experimentation within the US and to check transpolar propagation to Europe on paths over the high Arctic. It's transmitting very slow-speed CW--so-called "QRSS" transmissions of one dit every six seconds--at up to 2 W ERP.

The beacon's antenna is a 32-meter (105 feet) wire vertical with a capacity top hat, about 1 mH of base-loading inductance and a killer ground system that covers several acres.

Experimenters use software such as Argo

<http://www.weaksignals.com/> to "copy" the weak-signal LF transmissions.

*Age is a very high price to pay
for maturity.*

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 37,
Starting Monday, September 29, W1AW will shift its 160-meter code practice and bulletin transmission frequency from 1818 kHz to 1817.5 kHz, starting with the 4 PM EDT (2000 UTC) code practice run. The change not only brings W1AW's Top Band frequency in line with those the station uses on other bands, it also should help to eliminate possible interference from broadcast station harmonics and birdies--something that's more likely on an integer (ie, whole number) frequency. W1AW has been conducting code practice and bulletin transmissions on 1818 kHz since 1982. Prior to that, W1AW transmitted both CW and phone bulletins on 1835 kHz.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 27 RADIO HISTORY IS MADE AT WRC-03 WITH 7-MHZ REALIGNMENT COMPROMISE

In a historic move, delegates to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) agreed to move broadcasters out of 7100 to 7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 to make room for the Amateur Service. International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary--and ARRL CEO--David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the "carefully crafted compromise" calls for broadcasters to vacate 7100 to 7200 kHz by March 29, 2009. Amateurs in the US and the rest of Region 2 will continue to enjoy the 7000 to 7300 kHz band they now have, eventually with greatly reduced broadcasting interference.

The compromise marked the first time in the history of internationally coordinated radio spectrum allocation that an HF broadcasting band was shifted to accommodate the needs of another service. It cuts in half the incompatibility between amateur and broadcasting use of the 7 MHz band and doubles the 40-meter spectrum available to amateurs in Regions 1 & 3.

While the result falls short of the IARU's goal of a 300-kHz worldwide exclusive band for amateurs, the cooperation of broadcasters, opposing delegates and many others was required to make a positive step for ham radio. Spectrum between 4 and 10 MHz is on the agenda for WRC-07, but the next conference will not consider further changes to 7000-7200 kHz.

As expected, WRC-03 also dropped the international Morse code requirement for HF access, leaving individual countries to decide if they want to retain a code proficiency requirement (Switzerland already has dropped the requirement). In addition, the conference adopted a number of improvements to other international regulations for the Amateur Service. Delegates also agreed to allow a secondary allocation for satellite borne synthetic aperture radars

at 70 cm and, in an Article 19 change, made amateur call sign assignments more flexible.

Michael Owen, VK3KI, a member of the IARU team at Geneva, has provided a detailed explanation of Article 25 changes in the article "New Regulations for the Amateur Services", available on the IARU Web site: <http://www.iaru.org/re1030703att3.html>.

More than 2600 delegates and other participants attended the 4-week-long conference, chaired by Dr Veena Rawat of Canada. In addition to Sumner and Owen, the team--led by IARU President Larry Price, W4RA--included Bob Jones, VE7RWJ; Wojciech Nietyksza, SP5FM, and Ken Pulfer, VE3PU. More than a dozen other amateurs were present on national delegations or in other roles for the IARU, its regional organizations and member-societies.

Changes to Articles 19 and 25 took effect on July 5, 2003. In general, the other Final Acts take effect on January 1, 2005.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 31
When 83-year-old Walter Siebert, K3KBR, of Valley Lee, Maryland, started suffering serious chest pains July 15, he called 911. For reasons yet to be determined, no one answered. So Siebert turned to ham radio and put out a cry for help on 75 meters, saying he was having chest pains and needed to go to the hospital. Larry Wheeler, KG4RGN, heard Siebert's plea in Williamsburg, Virginia. At the time, Wheeler was monitoring a net on 3947 kHz as part of Amateur Radio Emergency Service District 7's participation in a Surry Nuclear Power Plant VOPEX (Virginia Operations Plan EXercise) drill. He notified the net to clear the frequency and contacted Siebert to get the necessary details. Wheeler then got in touch with the 911 dispatcher in James City County, Virginia. The 911 dispatcher in turn was able to reach the proper authorities in Maryland and get medical help to Siebert, who was hospitalized.